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SOUTHWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Dallas, Texas

Technical information: (972) 850-4800 BLSInfoDallas@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southwest

Media contact: (972) 850-4800

Occupational Employment and Wages in McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, May 2016

Workers in the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$16.79 in May 2016, about 30 percent below the nationwide average of \$23.86, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were lower than their respective national averages in 19 of the 22 major occupational groups, including computer and mathematical; arts, design, entertainment, sports and media; and life, physical, and social science. One local group, community and social service, at \$24.39 per hour, had wages that were significantly higher than the respective national average of \$22.69.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, McAllen employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups including personal care and service; education, training, and library; and healthcare support. Conversely, 12 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production; business and financial operations; and management. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
	United States	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX		United States	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX		
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0		\$23.86	\$16.79	*	-30
Management	5.1	2.4	*	56.74	45.67	*	-20
Business and financial operations	5.2	2.3	*	36.09	29.31	*	-19
Computer and mathematical	3.0	0.7	*	42.25	24.44	*	-42
Architecture and engineering	1.8	0.4	*	40.53	28.22	*	-30
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.4	*	35.06	22.58	*	-36
Community and social service	1.4	1.0	*	22.69	24.39	*	7
Legal	0.8	0.5	*	50.95	(2)		-
Education, training, and library	6.2	10.4	*	26.21	22.68	*	-13
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	0.6	*	28.07	18.06	*	-36
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.9	6.5		38.06	33.20	*	-13
Healthcare support	2.9	6.1	*	14.65	10.44	*	-29
Protective service	2.4	2.8	*	22.03	21.71		-1
Food preparation and serving related	9.2	9.3		11.47	10.29	*	-10
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	2.4	*	13.47	10.85	*	-19
Personal care and service	3.2	9.7	*	12.74	9.03	*	-29
Sales and related	10.4	11.8	*	19.50	14.39	*	-26
Office and administrative support	15.7	16.7	*	17.91	13.52	*	-25

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2016 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
	United States	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX		United States	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX		
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.4		13.37	9.74	*	-27
Construction and extraction	4.0	2.2	*	23.51	16.02	*	-32
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.3	*	22.45	16.33	*	-27
Production	6.5	2.6	*	17.88	14.08	*	-21
Transportation and material moving	6.9	7.5		17.34	13.08	*	-25

Footnotes:

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

(2) Estimates not released.

Note: * The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

One occupational group – education, training, and library – was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. McAllen had 25,960 jobs in education, training, and library, accounting for 10.4 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.2-percent national share. However, the local wage for this occupational group was significantly below the U.S. average. At \$22.68 an hour, the mean wage for McAllen education, training, and library workers was about 13 percent below the \$26.21 national average.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the education, training, and library group included elementary school teachers, except special education (5,920), secondary school teachers, except special and career/technical education (4,330), and middle school teachers, except special and career/technical education (3,260). Among the higher-paying jobs were instructional coordinators and postsecondary English language and literature teachers, with mean annual wages of \$71,150 and \$68,220, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were substitute teachers (\$22,600 per year) and teacher assistants (\$24,900). (Detailed occupational data for the education, training, and library group are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_32580.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See [table 1](#).) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the McAllen metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the education, training, and library group. For instance, middle school teachers, except special and career/technical education, were employed at 2.9 times the national rate in McAllen, and secondary school teachers, except special education and career/technical education, at 2.4 times the U.S. average. Both McAllen teacher location quotients were among the highest in all metropolitan areas for these particular occupations. On the other hand, preschool teachers, except special education, had a location quotient of 1.0 in McAllen, indicating that this particular occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Texas Workforce Commission.

Note

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. The OES data available from BLS include cross-industry occupational employment and wage estimates for the nation; over 650 areas, including states and the District of Columbia, metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), metropolitan divisions, nonmetropolitan areas, and territories; national industry-specific estimates at the NAICS sector, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industry levels, and national estimates by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Each year, two semiannual panels of approximately 200,000 sampled establishments are contacted, one panel in May and the other in November. Responses are obtained by mail, Internet or other electronic means, email, telephone, or personal visit. The May 2016 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2016, November 2015, May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, and November 2013. The overall national response rate for the six panels, based on the 50 states and the District of Columbia, is 73 percent based on establishments and 69 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 58 percent of total national employment. The sample in the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,063 establishments with a response rate of 57 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2016 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Metropolitan area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **McAllen-Edinburg-Mission Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Hidalgo County in Texas.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southwest. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request . Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2016

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Education, training, and library occupations.....	25,960	1.7	\$22.68	\$47,170
Business teachers, postsecondary.....	60	0.4	(5)	73,110
Mathematical science teachers, postsecondary	90	1.0	(5)	65,740
Biological science teachers, postsecondary.....	60	0.7	(5)	64,290
Political science teachers, postsecondary.....	40	1.4	(5)	58,040
Psychology teachers, postsecondary.....	60	0.9	(5)	59,500
Health specialties teachers, postsecondary	70	0.2	(5)	65,660
Nursing instructors and teachers, postsecondary	30	0.3	(5)	66,870
Education teachers, postsecondary	80	0.8	(5)	54,750
Art, drama, and music teachers, postsecondary	90	0.5	(5)	49,530
Communications teachers, postsecondary	50	1.1	(5)	51,730
English language and literature teachers, postsecondary	310	2.5	(5)	68,220
Foreign language and literature teachers, postsecondary	50	1.0	(5)	44,880
History teachers, postsecondary	50	1.2	(5)	48,360
Vocational education teachers, postsecondary	420	2.1	20.93	43,520
Preschool teachers, except special education	680	1.0	17.81	37,050
Kindergarten teachers, except special education	530	2.0	(5)	55,410
Elementary school teachers, except special education ..	5,920	2.4	(5)	55,210
Middle school teachers, except special and career/technical education.....	3,260	2.9	(5)	56,110
Secondary school teachers, except special and career/technical education.....	4,330	2.4	(5)	56,420
Career/technical education teachers, secondary school.....	360	2.6	(5)	54,450
Special education teachers, kindergarten and elementary school	270	0.8	(5)	54,910
Special education teachers, middle school	170	1.1	(5)	56,530
Special education teachers, secondary school	290	1.2	(5)	57,320
Adult basic & secondary education & literacy teachers & instructors	70	0.6	40.04	83,280
Self-enrichment education teachers.....	240	0.6	14.71	30,590
Teachers and instructors, all other, except substitute teachers.....	600	1.2	(5)	26,610
Substitute teachers.....	3,140	2.9	10.86	22,600
Librarians.....	380	1.6	29.99	62,390
Library technicians	110	0.7	12.94	26,920
Audio-visual and multimedia collections specialists	80	4.2	28.08	58,410
Instructional coordinators	540	2.0	34.20	71,150
Teacher assistants.....	2,870	1.3	(5)	24,900
Education, training, and library workers, all other	70	0.4	14.17	29,470

Footnotes:

- (1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_32580.htm
- (2) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.
- (3) The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.
- (4) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a "year-round, full-time" hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.
- (5) Wages for some occupations that do not generally work year-round, full time, are reported either as hourly wages or annual salaries depending on how they are typically paid.